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Cc: Hillenbrand, John[Hillenbrand.John@epa.gov]; Lyons, John[Lyons.John@epa.gov]; Tenley, Clancy[Tenley.Clancy@epa.gov]; Herrera, Angeles[Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov]; Meer, Daniel[Meer.Daniel@epa.gov]
From: Lindsay, Nancy
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 7:20:33 PM
Subject: FW: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

All,

John Hillenbrand is rounding up info from the RPMs on all our mine sites to address the administrator's directive below. I think that he will catch all the SFD-7 and 8 NPL/NPL-equiv sites that way.

Harry - He'll also need any removal work (we already know Argonaut) that we may be doing at mine sites – I am not aware of any.

Will – if you have mine assessment work we need to know about at Navajo, please advise John.

Nicole – I just wanted you to know in case there's some mine site assessment work you want to flag – John probably knows about that, too, but just in case...

We need to gather info quickly today/tomorrow morning.

Thanks, N

From: "Adm13McCarthy, Gina" <[Administrator/Ex. 6](#)>
Date: August 12, 2015 at 9:51:16 AM MDT
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Cc: "Fritz, Matthew" <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>, "Stanislaus, Mathy" <Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov>

Subject: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

Good morning everyone,

While we continue to investigate the root causes of last week's release of mining waste at the Gold King Mine in Colorado, we are instructing our Regions to immediately cease any field investigation work at mines including tailings facilities, unless there is imminent risk in a specific case. We are in the process of initiating an independent assessment by a sister federal agency or another external entity to examine the factors that led to last week's incident. Based on the outcome from that assessment, we will determine what actions may be necessary to avoid similar incidents at other sites. While we stand down on existing field investigations and assessments at these mining sites, we also are instructing our Regions to identify existing sites with similarities to the Gold King Mine site and to identify any immediate threats and consider appropriate response actions.

If you have questions or wish to discuss a particular situation please reach out to Mathy.

Thank you.